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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,329	02/19/2002	Kenichi Sato	25-192	1996
7590	02/08/2005		EXAMINER	
Arnold International P.O. BOX 129 Great Falls, VA 22066			JELINEK, BRIAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	
DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/076,329	SATO, KENICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian Jelinek	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/19/2002</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a first office action in response to application no. 10/076,329 filed on 2/19/2002 in which claims 1-2 are presented for examination.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levy (U.S. Pat. No. 6,618,093).

Regarding claim 1, Levy discloses an electronic camera that includes an optical system (Fig. 1, element 2) for forming an image of an object, and an electronic image

pick-up device for capturing image information by arranging multiple detecting elements on an image pick-up surface (Fig. 1, element 5), the improvement of: having said image pick-up surface be non-planar and correspond in shape to the curvature of field of said optical system (Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 4-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levy (U.S. Pat. No. 6,618,093) in view of Bietry et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,604,639).

Regarding claim 2, Levy discloses a photosenser having a shape that corresponds with the shape of the focal plane of the lens system (col. 4, lines 18-24). Levy does not disclose the image pick-up surface has a radius of curvature which satisfies the following condition: $|R| < 20*f$, where R is the radius of curvature of the image pick-up surface, and f is the focal length of the optical system.

However, Bietry et al. discloses a camera with a curved image surface (Fig. 1, element 109) where an image pick-up surface has a radius of curvature which satisfies the following condition: $|R| < 20*f$, where R is the radius of curvature of the image pick-up surface, and f is the focal length of the optical system. Specifically, Bietry et al.

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discloses a focal length of the optical system is 31.89 mm (col. 3, lines 61-62) and a curvature in the range of 90 m to 120 mm (col. 4, lines 45-50). One of ordinary skill in the art would have provided the stated focal length and radius of curvature for the purpose of obtaining the best focus in consideration of the geometric depth of focus and the natural Petzval curvature of the lens system (col. 4, lines 45-50). As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided a radius of curvature less than twenty times the focal length in order to obtain the best focus in consideration of the geometric depth of focus and the natural Petzval curvature of the lens system.

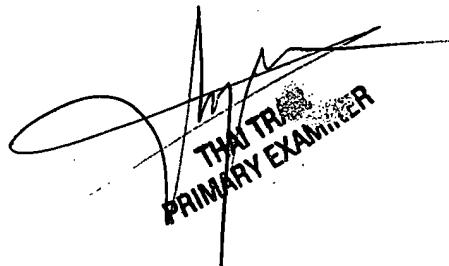
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Jelinek whose telephone number is (703) 305-4724 until 3/2/2005, and (571)272-7366 thereafter. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached at (703) 305-4725. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brian Jelinek
2/7/2005



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRIAN JELINEK". To the right of the signature, there is a large, diagonal, semi-transparent stamp with the text "THAI TRAN" and "PRIMARY EXAMINER" repeated several times.